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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th February 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Faridpur Hitaishini [Faridpur] of the 14th January writes as follows:—

The crisis in the Far East.

Asiatic Powers are an eyesore to European sovereigns. The latter profess friendship for Japan at the sight of her strength, but in their hearts they do not like the idea of Asia becoming strong. All the European nations would be glad to see Japan weakened in a Russo-Japanese war. Russia is now a first-class Power in Europe. If she suffers defeat at Japan's hands, she will run down in the scale of political importance. The humiliation of any of the two Powers will be inwardly hailed with joy by the European Powers. At one time greed and love of territorial aggrandisement filled the earth with sin and oppression under the pretext of spreading the Musalman faith. The evil consequences to which this state of things gave birth darken the page of history and are visible in almost every part of the globe. In the present age, the purity of the Christian faith is falling in public estimation because Christian missionaries have become high-priests of territorial aggrandisement and commercial expansion. It should be the prime duty of these men to show the path of salvation to their countrymen and co-religionists before they proceed to show it to the followers of other religions.

2. **The Hitavadi** [Calcutta] of the 5th February writes:—

The Tibet Mission.

Government made the most elaborate arrangements before embarking on the Tibet mission.

If all goes well, no serious difficulty will be experienced. But if danger comes, it will then be found whether the arrangements were sufficient. At the commencement of the Boer war, the authorities in England thought that the forces that were then sent to South Africa would be sufficient. Events showed that this conclusion was wrong. Government knows nothing about Tibet and its inhabitants. Who knows that, if war commences, nothing untoward will happen? It would have been well if the authorities had not courted danger in this fashion.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.
Jan. 14th, 1904.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 5th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent writes to the **Kasipur Nivasi** [Barisal] of the 27th January that tigers are making great havoc among the cattle at Bhandaria Bunder in the Backergunge district.

Tigers in the Backergunge district.

means of preventing the mischief. Will the authorities do something to rid the locality of the pest?

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 27th 1904.

4. The **Paliivasi** [Kalna] of the 27th January writes that there is only one Inspector of Police for the Katwa and Kalna subdivisions in the Burdwan district. This arrangement is most unsatisfactory and has already increased crime in the Katwa subdivision.

A few days ago, one Indra Nath Mukerji, an officer of Maharaja Manindra Chundra Nundi, was attacked by dacoits at Sudda, a place four or five miles from Katwa, and was sent to the Katwa Government dispensary. One Inspector of Police for the two subdivisions can never be expected to do satisfactory work. Famine has made its appearance in many places in the Katwa subdivision. Thefts and dacoities are, therefore, likely to increase. It is, therefore, high time that a competent Inspector of Police should be appointed for the Katwa subdivision. The attention of the Inspector-General of Police is drawn to the matter.

PALLIVASI,
Jan. 27th 1904.

5. The **Paliivasi** [Kalna] of the 3rd February says that illiterate Christian missionaries vilify and abuse the Hindu religion in all public places in Kalna town. The local padri sahebs, who are always found to be over-zealous of

their rights and privileges, should be warned against such a practice, lest it should give rise to serious riots.

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

One Inspector of Police for two subdivisions in the Burdwan district.

MEDINI BANDHAV.
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

6. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 3rd February says that this week there has occurred no case of dacoity within the jurisdictions of the Narayanpur and Khargapur thanas in the Midnapore district.

Police more vigilant in the week there has occurred no case of dacoity within the jurisdictions of the Narayanpur and Khargapur thanas in the Midnapore district. The police has become very watchful and the authorities have bestirred themselves in the matter. Mr. Luson, the District Magistrate, has transferred the Sub-Inspector, Gokul Chandra, from Narayangarh, and appointed the Court Sub-Inspector, Samsul Alam, in his place. An additional police force has been sent to Narayangarh. Mr. Samsul Alam is reported to be a just and impartial police officer. It is hoped that he will be able to bring the real offenders to punishment.

MAHIMA.
Feb. 5th, 1904.

7. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 5th February says that Mr. Gregson's tenants in the Nadia district have brought very serious charges of oppression against Mr. Crawford, his agent in the Kushtia and Meherpur subdivisions. It is said that the District Magistrate

and the District Superintendent of Police collected evidence regarding some of the charges. The Divisional Commissioner himself passed nearly a fortnight at the place. Nearly one thousand tenants drew his attention to their grievances, but all to no effect. He advised them to apply to Mr. Crawford. The Lieutenant-Governor is now their only hope. His Honour will be able to know everything about the matter by calling for the evidence collected by the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police.

RATNAKAR,
Feb. 6th, 1904.

8. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 6th February draws the attention of Mr. J. N. Gupta, the able and worthy District Magistrate of Bankura, to the prevalence of gambling in the Mejia village, two miles south of Raniganj town.

RANGALAY,
Feb. 7th, 1904.

9. Referring to the Cabuli oppression in mufassal districts, the *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 7th February suggests the following remedy:—

We think ready payment would be the best thing to do. The people of the Dhaniakhali village suffered the oppression of the Cabulis for a long time. At last, when they could bear it no longer, all the villagers united together and gave the Cabulis a sound beating. Since that time the Cabulis have ceased to be disorderly, and they do not now lend money to the Hindus and the Muhammadans of Dhaniakhali, nor do they sell any article to them on credit. The village zamindars are now imbecile, the village police worthless. The villagers must now defend themselves; there is no other course left. The English Government possesses much glamour on the surface and external glitter, but is slow to perform real substantial work. Our advice therefore is, let every Bengali make arrangements for paying the Cabulis in their own coin. Everything will then return to order.

DACCA PRAKAS.
Feb. 7th, 1904.

10. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 7th February writes that one Basanta Kumar Basu, a medical practitioner in the Faridpur town, was arrested by the police on the 10th December last on a charge of theft. He was afterwards released on bail, Babu Mathuranath

Dhar, a pleader of the Judge's Court, Faridpur, standing security for Rs. 200. Next day he went to Court with the pleader to file his petition. But he disappeared after 12 o'clock. Babu Mathuranath said that the police had removed Basanta Kumar somewhere. Babu Ramchandra Dhar, a Collectorate muharrir, deposed in Court that Basanta Kumar and a police constable named Dwarkanath De landed at the Bhagyakul steamer station from the steamer going to Narayangunge. Great sensation prevails about this mysterious disappearance of the accused. It is doubtful whether the man is still living. He said that he had incurred the displeasure of the police by making certain statements against Babu Annada Charan Sen, Sub-Inspector of Police, Faridpur. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division will, it is to be hoped, take due notice of this case and order an enquiry to be made about the whereabouts of the accused, Basanta Kumar Bose.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. A correspondent writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd February :—

The Danton Munsif and its inhabitants of village Balighai have to go to Danton, which is not less than 22 miles distant from that village, to file their civil suits. This causes great inconvenience, which may be removed by allowing such suits to be taken up at Contai, which is only 12 miles from Balighai. Even in suits the value of which does not exceed one rupee, the litigants have to pay eight annas to the Civil Court peon for serving the summonses. Over and above these, the irregularities of the Munsif of Danton are a source of much inconvenience and loss. Ordinarily he does not come to Court at the proper time. But when the number of cases increases, he attends Court at a very early hour, and dismisses the suits in the absence of the parties. Under him the execution of decrees in Small Cause Court cases has become very difficult, and he makes it almost impossible to attach property, moveable or immoveable. The effect of this is that the *mahajans* are unwilling to institute civil suits in the Munsif's Court.

NIHAR,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th February expects that Mr. Justice

Mr. Justice Pratt at Bhagalpur. Pratt, who is now at Bhagalpur on inspection tour, will enquire into the irregularities committed by a Munsif of Beguserai. The serious charges that were brought against the Munsif were all true, as will appear from the records that are now at Bhagalpur. If His Lordship comes away from Bhagalpur without making any enquiry into this matter, it will be a grievous omission, no doubt.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 5th, 1904.

13. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th February shows, by quoting statistics, that within recent years the number of appeal cases has vastly increased in both the High Court and District Courts. But the number of

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 6th, 1904.

judges has not increased in the same proportion. Consequently the judges have to work very hard and at a very high pressure. This often leads to serious miscarriages of justice, thereby shaking the faith of the people in British law-Courts. There is a proposal to increase the number of the Judges in the Calcutta High Court, but the Judges of District Courts are as much overworked as they. It is often said that the latter adopt various expedients to summarily dispose of cases. No wonder, therefore, that they should sometimes make serious mistakes. Only the other day it was observed by the High Court that Mr. Fischer, the District Judge of Dinajpur, had not properly understood the papers of the case of the zamindar Baharuddin. It is not known what led Mr. Fischer to make the mistake referred to by the High Court, but it is certain that even wise men are apt to make mistakes on account of haste. To remedy this state of things, it is desirable that every District Judge should be provided with a Native assistant. Natives, if not superior, are in no way inferior to Europeans in judicial work, although the authorities may not admit it. Besides this, natives can be had on much smaller salaries. It is unjust to try to remove the difficulty by blocking the path of appeals.

(d)—Education.

14. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th January writes that the

The list of Lower Primary text books for the Chittagong Division. list of Lower Primary text-books published by the Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, differs from the list published by the Director of Public Instruction. In the Director's list *Padarthabijnan* (Physics) and *Rasayanabijnan* (Chemistry) have been prescribed for boys, and for girls these books have been made optional. But in the Inspector's list for 1904, it is not mentioned whether these books are optional for girl students. How can the Inspector make these books compulsory for girls? If this is a mistake, it should be rectified without delay, as it is calculated to cause much inconvenience to the girls.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Jan. 26th, 1904.

15. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st February writes that

The Ayurvedic schools in Bengal. Mr. Pedler, the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has issued orders for collecting statistics of Ayurvedic Schools in the Province. Hitherto

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 1st, 1904.

Government has done nothing to encourage the teaching of Ayurveda. It is a fact that treatment according to the Ayurvedic system of medicine is widely prevalent in the country, and that it is being more and more patronised by the educated community. Government should encourage the teaching of Ayurveda by establishing an Ayurvedic college and making arrangements therein for the teaching of surgery according to Western methods.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.
Feb. 5th, 1904.

16. A correspondent writes to the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the

5th February that the teaching of drawing in village schools is a very difficult matter. In normal schools there are special arrangements for

this purpose, and teachers and students are not put to any inconvenience. But in village schools, the boys are compelled to sit close to each other on benches and draw on paper placed on their knees. Want of funds makes it impossible for these schools to make proper arrangements for the teaching of drawing. It is to be hoped that the educational authorities will issue instructions to the managers of village schools to remove the inconvenience.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.
Feb. 5th, 1904.

17. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 5th February takes exception to the list of approved text-books for schools

The list of approved text-books. published in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, on the ground that it contains no books calculated to teach principles of Muhammadan morality to Musalman boys. As the list now stands, even Musalman boys will be compelled to read books full of Hindu moral principles. It is such a system of education which is making Musalman boys irreligious.

The list of text-books contains no books suited for Musalman boys, because there is only one Musalman member on the Text-Book Committee, and that member a gentleman who has spent all his life in trade and has never taken any special interest in education as it is now imparted in schools.

To remedy the defect, the number of Musalman members on the Committee ought to be increased, and books containing Musalman principles of morality appointed for all Divisions in which the number of Musalman students predominates over the number of Hindu students.

HITAVADI.
Feb. 5th, 1904.

The Government Resolution on
the Report of Colonel Clibborn's
Committee.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th February writes to the following effect :—

What efforts Lord Curzon has been respectively making to improve the condition of the Indian people and to extend England's supremacy in Asia, will be clearly perceived from the incidents of the past few months. While money is being lavishly spent in fitting out expeditions to the Persian Gulf and to Tibet, and the latter expedition is being called a "mission" in order to enable the Indian exchequer to pay its cost, the greatest possible economy is being practised in undertaking works, like improvement of agriculture, digging of canals, establishment of agricultural banks, reform of education and reform of the police, which are calculated to benefit the people.

The Viceroy, who did not hesitate to literally pour out money on the Dehli Darbar, on the coast of the Persian Gulf, and in the Tibetan valleys, in order to make an exhibition of England's Imperial pride, remained, however, content with framing a law which will favour the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies, when the question was one of improving the condition of the Indian cultivators. Instead of giving Indian cultivators any substantial help in money, the Viceroy has remained satisfied with advising them to help each other out of their own difficulties. Again, in the matter of educational reform, instead of providing for an improved method of education by the employment in India of eminent native and foreign Professors on handsome salaries, all that is being attempted is to bring the Universities under direct official control and to throw obstacles in the path of poor boys seeking education. And having disposed of the questions of educational reform and agricultural improvement in this satisfactory manner, Government directed its attention to improving the industries of the country.

Accordingly, it appointed a Committee to enquire into the condition of industrial education in this country and into the best method of improving it. The Committee has submitted its report, and the Resolution of the Government thereon has also been published. But the most important and intricate problem, namely, the question of local handicrafts, has not received much

attention from the Government. Every one will admit that the question of industrial education in villages is not so easy to solve as the question of such education in large towns. Government also knows this perfectly well; and it is because of the difficulty of the former problem, that we had expected to see the Government take up its solution in right earnest. But the result has been disappointing.

In mufassal or village industrial schools, arrangements ought to be made for complete instruction in the branches of industry which will be taught in them. Government has made no mention of the industries which it thinks fit to be taught in village industrial schools. But the writer thinks that such industries as the manufacture of locks, matches, buttons, umbrellas, spectacles, knives and scissors, soap, dyes, varnish, oils of different kinds, and cleaning of hide ought to be among the first to be taught in those schools, as their pursuit, as a calling, does not require the employment of large capital. At present, there are few schools in India which teach them. But the importance of a knowledge of these industries is now admitted by many people, and by the endeavour of local bodies technical schools have been established in some places for teaching them. But these schools have, as yet, been far from fulfilling their object. They have hitherto taught nothing but a little drawing and a little carpentry and similar arts. Multiplication of such schools in the country will not do it the least good, as regards its industrial improvement.

To spread industrial education in the country and to thoroughly improve its industries will, first of all, require that Government should ascertain for each province the raw produce which it exports and the form in which, after manufacture, such produce returns to the country. Without a careful collection of these preliminary facts, it will be impossible to select the industries which will be most appropriate for each province, and the sort of education that will be necessary to fit people for them. The Committee, too, which was appointed by the Government of India, has laid stress on this point in their report, in connection with the industrial education of the mufassal people. But Government has nowhere in its Resolution referred to the importance of the subject.

The necessity for an industrial survey like the one suggested above has been repeatedly pressed upon the attention of Government by the Native Press and by industrial associations and other public bodies. The subject has not gone undiscussed in England also. But the authorities have never yet thought fit to pay attention to it. Government has created large departments for assessment and increase of land revenue by the inspection of cultivated lands, but has not thought fit to do anything to improve local industries which can be carried on with small capital. Sir Louis Mallett, Under-Secretary of State for India, raised the question in 1875, but the opposition he met with will be best expressed in his own language:—

"Now I am compelled to say that since I have been connected with the India Office, I have found just as strong a repugnance to the adoption of any adequate measure to the collection of a comprehensive and well-digested set of facts as to the recognition of general principle. The only occasion on which I had the misfortune of encountering the vehement opposition of some Members of Council, for whose opinions and experience I have the most unfeigned respect, was in my advocacy of Mr. Forbes Watson's proposal for an Industrial Survey."

Sir Louis Mallett wrote this in 1875, and since then Government has made no attempt at an industrial survey. The question has again been raised by the Committee of Colonel Clibborn, and they have embodied in their report the results of their enquiries in this direction. But, while thanking the Committee for the information they have embodied in the report, Lord Curzon throws upon Provincial Governments the whole responsibility of providing for the industrial education of the mufassal people.

The action of the Government of India in this matter cannot certainly be commended. The manner in which the Provincial contracts with the Local Governments are settled, leaves those Governments hardly enough money to meet the ordinary expenses of the administration. It is easy to see, therefore, what result will follow from the Supreme Government's action in throwing the burden of industrial education upon Local Governments. The Government of India would have acted more frankly if it had said that it was

not willing to encourage industrial education instead of trying to fascinate people by the use of clever language.

There are arts and industries, moreover, an improvement of which ought not to be left in the hands of Local Governments. But the Government of Lord Curzon is not willing to keep even this work in its own hands, for fear of having to supply the necessary funds.

The suggestions of Colonel Clibbon's Committee to combine practical with theoretical instruction by equipping schools with workshops does not seem to commend itself to Lord Curzon. The Resolution gives in great detail Government's reasons for not accepting this suggestion; but an equally detailed account of Government's decisions as to how the local industries of India are to be improved is found nowhere in the Resolution.

The sum and substance of Government's Resolution, so far as the writer has been able to gather it, is that Government is not prepared to undertake the large expenditure which is necessary for an improvement of local handicrafts, as it calls them. What Government at present intends to do, is to establish only such technical schools as will supply big mills and factories in towns with skilled labour. It is in furtherance of this object that Government has created the ten technical scholarships for the industrial education of Indian youths in some foreign country. Government is not at present prepared to encourage the establishment of such small workshops in every district as will really conduce to the increasing of the national wealth of India, because the establishment of such workshops may interfere with the earnings of English manufacturers. The Government's Resolution may, therefore, after all, be compared to the mouse which the mountain brought forth.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Feb 6th, 1904.

19. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 6th February asks the following questions:—

The three new posts in the Sanskrit College. (1) Whether the creation of the three new posts in the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, was not due solely to the endeavours of Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri, the Principal of the College.

(2) Has the number of students of Smriti, Nyaya, and Vedanta in the College increased within recent times? If not, what was the necessity of appointing three additional professors for teaching those subjects?

(3) It was advertised that three professors, able to teach according to the European mode of teaching, were required. Does Pandit Prasanna Kumar Tarkanidhi, the newly appointed Assistant Professor of Nyaya, know English and is he able to teach on the European method?

(4) Where and for what lengths of time did Pandits Rajendra Chandra Kavyatirtha and Banamali Chakravarti do the work of teaching before being appointed to the Sanskrit College? Was any enquiry made about their mode of teaching and were their testimonials inspected before appointing them? Did they ever before teach any Sastra in any school or college? How far does Rajendra Nath's knowledge of English or the European method of teaching go?

(5) Are not Pandits Rajendra Nath and Banamali *protégés* of the Principal of the College? Have they not been attending on him for a long time?

(6) Did not the Principal some time ago say to a respectable member of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University that he did not want outsiders for the three posts and that he had created them for his own men?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.
Jan. 29th, 1904.

20. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th January writes that tram-car accidents are now very frequent in Calcutta. Misbehaviour of tram-car conductors is of daily occurrence. The cars are very seldom stopped according to the convenience of the passengers. The notice "Wait here for the cars" may do for those who wish to get into them. But it is a fact that many persons are seen to have nasty falls owing to the cars not being stopped at the desired places.

21. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 31st January hopes that the Calcutta Municipality will pay immediate attention to the second representation submitted to it by the Marwari community of Barabazar. The complaints contained in the representation are reasonable and ought to be removed.

HITAVARTA.
Jan. 31st, 1904.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd February writes that the late District Magistrate of Bhagalpur and Chairman of the local Municipality, on being appointed to his present post of Municipal Secretary to the Government of Bengal, proposed that a Deputy Magistrate should be appointed as Chairman; for, according to him, a non-official Chairman would be unable to manage the work of the Municipality. But the Municipal Commissioners appointed Babu Upendra Nath Bagchi, the well-known pleader of Bhagalpur, as Chairman. Babu Upendra Nath has been doing his work as Chairman with conspicuous ability. With the appearance of the plague in the town his activity has been doubled. He visits the plague-infected houses and sees the cleansing and the disinfecting work properly carried out. Mr. Surya Kumar Agasti, the Joint Magistrate, and Babu Manohar Ghosh, the overseer, are also making great exertions. Here is an illustration of the fact that "natives" can do much better work than Europeans when the time for action comes.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th February writes that an account of the manner in which the large sum of Rs. 21,994 was spent by the Calcutta Municipality up to the end of December last in paying charges for advertisements in newspapers, is an amusing study. The budget estimate on this head was exceeded long before the close of the year. Among the English newspapers that which received the largest share of the money, the *Indian Engineering*, comes out first with Rs. 3,890. Among the vernacular papers, the *Samay* got more than Rs. 1,000, the *Dainik Chandroika* about Rs. 850, and the *Sambad Prabhakar* Rs. 1,378. But the *Englishman*, the *Bengali* and the *Capital*, got from Rs. 500 to 700 each; and the *Hitavadi* and the *Bangavasi*, about Rs. 250 each. How is it that insignificant newspapers got so much money while, those that have the largest circulation got so little? Who is the officer entrusted with the duty of distributing advertisements among newspapers, and what is the principle that is followed in this matter? Is that paper favoured the most which offers the highest "commission"? If the object of advertisements is to make the subject-matter known to the largest number of persons, it is not clear why the least known papers are so lavishly patronised. Will Mr. Greer explain the mystery?

HITAVADI,
Feb. 5th, 1904.

24. In an article headed "Legalised robbery" the same paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI.

The Calcutta Improvement Scheme. The so-called Improvement Scheme of Calcutta by the opening of new roads has deprived many a householder of his paternal dwelling house. It would have been some consolation if adequate compensation had been granted for the houses and lands taken possession of by the Municipality. But the amount of compensation awarded is so small and the valuation rates so low, that there is despair all round. The Victoria Memorial project has, like the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, inflicted cruel injury upon many persons. Englishmen are strangers in the country. Even in their own country very few of them possess houses of their own, the great majority living in hotels and rented houses. How painful it is to the Bengalis to leave their homestead, Englishmen cannot even imagine. Our paternal dwelling-house is very dear to us, more sacred in our eyes than the marble tablet which adorns the tomb of Europeans. It reminds us of our remote ancestors. Our unwillingness to quit it for silver and gold is a national characteristic.

But who is there to see how far real improvement is being effected? Where there is already an old road, it is now proposed to open another. Englishmen must go to the Russa race-ground, and a road is being constructed through the jungly tract which has been recently included in the limits of Calcutta! But where there are unhealthy and filthy drains and heaps of cow-dung spreading noxious gases all round, no improvement, it seems, need be

effected. Houses are being dismantled to open new but unnecessary roads, and more lands and houses than are necessary are being wrongfully taken up for supplying necessary funds. This is legalised robbery and it goes by the name of town improvement. This is Lord Curzon's vaunted "Calcutta Improvement Scheme."

The Land Acquisition Deputy Collector fixes the prices of lands and buildings as low as possible, and he does so for the sake of his service, for his very life. If anybody can afford to take his grievances to the High Court, he may expect some redress. Otherwise the Victoria Memorial and Lord Curzon's proposed embellishments of the city will be visible only through the bitter tears of the inhabitants, and this acquisition of lands will cause intense anguish to the injured parties.

There is a rumour that the work of valuation of lands and buildings will henceforth be entrusted to a Municipal Deputy Collector shortly to be appointed. This officer must make undervaluations in order to avoid losing his means of livelihood. It is said that either Babu Mahananda Gupta or Maulvi Bazlal Karim, the officiating third Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, will be appointed to this post. The rate-payers are helpless. Now, let the name of Hari be our only resource. This city is not for the *kala admis*.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 8th, 1904.

25. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th February has heard that the animals killed in the slaughter-house in Calcutta are mostly old, sick, and ill-fed. The flesh of such animals is extremely injurious to the health of those who eat it. The Calcutta Municipality ought to direct its attention to the matter. Mr. Lees has said the same thing in his report on the Calcutta slaughter-house and warned the Calcutta Municipality against the existing state of affairs. But no improvement, up to this time, is visible.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

26. A correspondent complains in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th January that the railway fare from Bogra to Sukhanpukur has been fixed at two annas, but that from Bogra to Gabtali, a station intermediate between Bogra and Sukhanpukur, is two annas, and that from Gabtali to Sukhanpukur is also two annas. This arrangement is unfair. The fare from Bogra to Sukhanpukur being two annas, that from Bogra to Gabtali should be five pice, and that from Gabtali to Sukhanpukur only three pice. The attention of the railway authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVARTA,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

27. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 31st January is glad that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities have undertaken to provide their third-class carriages with water-closets, and hopes that other railways will follow the example. The absence of water-closets in third-class carriages very often puts passengers to serious inconvenience.

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 3rd 1904.

28. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd February complains of the irregularity of the train which runs on the branch line between the Ondal and Alipurhat junction stations, East Indian Railway, on account of which passengers often fail to catch the train to Howrah. There is no waiting-room for females in the Gaurangadi station on the branch line, and this causes great inconvenience to the female passengers.

PALLIVASI.

29. We speak for the Kalna and Katwa public, says the same paper, that the construction of a metre or narrow gauge railway in this part of the country, as has been proposed by Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co., will be of no use to them.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd February complains that undue delay is made in refunding the excess charges levied from time to time from merchants sending goods by railway. This irregularity must be owing to the negligence of railway officers. The railway authorities should take due notice of the complaint.

31. (1) A correspondent from Jirat-Balagarh writes to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th February that the present Railway complaints.

timing of the trains on the Ranaghat branch line of the Bengal Central Railway causes great inconvenience to passengers. The main principle to be borne in mind in fixing the timing is that the branch line trains should correspond with the up and down trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Of the two day trains from Bongong, one should start early in the morning to correspond with the Bogula local train, and the other train should start after 12-30 P.M., to correspond with the up and down trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. From Ranaghat one train should start at 10-30 A.M., and the other after the arrival of the Darjeeling Mail.

(2) On the 23rd January last, Babu Sailajaprasad Majumdar, an inter-class passenger from Memari, a station on the East Indian Railway, going to Jamalpur with family by the Loop Mixed, was put to great inconvenience for want of a water-closet in any of the carriages. There was no light in the female carriage at night.

What the railways of India are doing. 32. The same paper heads an article entitled "Ruin by railways" with the following quotation:—

"Whatever lack of money there may be for education, or for sanitary improvements, or for irrigation, or for other things which the people of India so earnestly desire and pray for, the Government always seems to have plenty for railways. Why? Because the railways of India help the English people to wealth. . . . The railways have broken up many of the old industries of India, and thus have brought hardships and suffering to millions of people; they enrich the ruling nation, and they gave her a firmer grip upon her valuable dependency, and so money can always be found for them, whatever else suffers."—Rev. J. T. Sunderland.

and remarks as follows:—

In days of yore, Ravana, the King of the Rakshasas, stole Sita Devi, the very image of Lakshmi (the goddess of prosperity), and with the aid of the *puspaka ratha*, or the magic car, easily brought her across the sea to Lanka. He plundered the three worlds to beautify his capital. Even so, in modern times, the English by means of their *puspaka ratha*, or the steam-engine, have arranged to take away all the corn of India to their own country, and by killing the indigenous arts of the country, are filling it with foreign merchandise. The result of this drain has been that England is gradually flourishing, while India is being more and more impoverished. The English rulers do not pay much attention to improve the agriculture of India by means of canals and irrigation. But they are over anxious to extend railways in the country.

(h)—General.

33. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 16th January contains accounts of a Protest meetings. meeting of the Tippera People's Association and of a mass meeting, both held in Comilla town, to protest against the proposed transfer, and also of five other protest meetings.

34. The same paper has a long article protesting against the proposed The transfer question. transfer of East Bengal to Assam, and dwells upon the magnitude of the agitation. All classes of the population have joined the agitation, and never was there such unanimity in the country on any other question.

35. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th January writes that the Popular agitation and Govern- English Government in India being a foreign Government, is ignorant of the manners, customs, and the heart's yearnings of the Indian people. Government thinks that whatever it does is for the good of the people and that the people have no knowledge of what is for their own benefit, and hence they oppose Government's action and agitate. But the writer thinks otherwise. To disregard the people's cries is a sort of malady from which Government seems to suffer, and there can be no hope of a cordial union between the rulers and the ruled unless this malady is cured.

36. The same paper gives the following reasons against the proposed The transfer question. transfer of East Bengal to Assam:—

East Bengal has always looked upon West Bengal as its model in all respects. Navadvip, formerly the capital of Bengal, and renowned for its Sanskrit learning, is still held in high esteem by the

HITAVADI.
Feb. 5th, 1904.

HITAVADI.

PRATINIDHI.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

TRIPURA HITAISHI.
Jan. 26th, 1904

TRIPURA HITAISHI.

people of East Bengal. The people of East Bengal go to West Bengal to complete their education. Take the cases of two young men belonging to East Bengal. Suppose one goes to Calcutta and completes his education there, while the other remains in East Bengal and passes the M. A. Examination from the Dacca College. It will be found that the former has got a superior training. The Assam officials have to dispense justice among the coolies, the Garos, the Nagas, the Akas and other savages, so that their higher faculties get deteriorated and they become unfit to deal with higher and more civilized people. Nothing, not even the proposal of placing the transferred districts and Assam under a Lieutenant-Governor can induce the people of East Bengal to agree to the division of the Bengali-speaking population. The social relations, as now existing between East and West Bengal, will cease to exist after the transfer is effected. The unity that is now springing up among the Maharattas, the Bengalis, the Punjabis, the Hindusthanis, and the Madrasis, is owing to their being under the same Government. Similarly, a feeling of unity and sympathy is gradually growing among the entire Bengali community as the necessary result of living under the same administration. Does Government intend to cut asunder this national tie ?

HINDU RANJIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

37. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Boalia] of the 27th January thanks the Viceroy, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Chief Justice of Bengal for nominating Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court in the place of Dr. Gurudas Banerji, retired.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

38. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th January gives the proceedings of a protest meeting held in Faridpur town in connection with the proposed transfer.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

39. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes that the plague regulations are more fearful than the plague itself. If the plague regulations are withdrawn, it does not appear that the country will fare worse than it is doing now. Government has spent vast sums to stop plague, and the sufferings of the people confined in segregation camps have not been inconsiderable. But still the plague continues unabated. The memorial of the people of Bombay to Government to abolish the plague regulations therefore seems to be quite reasonable. The experience Government has gained during this long period may be expected to induce it to listen to the prayer of the memorialists. If the plague defies all attempts to stop its course, it is quite unnecessary to maintain so many doctors and other officers on plague duty at such enormous cost. Since the plague cannot be stopped, let the plague regulations be abolished. People cannot endure both.

PRATINIDHI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

40. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 30th January contains accounts of 33 protest meetings held in the Tippera district.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

41. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 31st January writes as follows :—
Lord Curzon's ensuing visit to East Bengal.
 If in coming to East Bengal the Viceroy really intends to know the minds of its inhabitants, he will surely take the opinion of the independent educated community, and in the name of justice we pray him to do so. There is no country in the world in which the masses are well versed in matters affecting the national interest and well-being. Everywhere the educated community leads popular agitations. If the opinion of the educated Indians is considered not to be worth consulting, why does not Government drive them out of the country and govern it with the help of *mudis* and *murdarfarashes*? We say all this because Government is rumoured to have said that the agitation has been entirely got up by a few pleaders and mukhtears. It is astonishing to see a Government, which has a veteran politician like Lord Curzon as its head, giving expression to such a remark. Pleaders and mukhtears are the leaders of the educated community in Bengal. To ignore or disregard them would be to do violence to justice.

DACCA PRAKAS.

Protest meetings.

42. The same paper contains accounts to protest meetings held at 21 different places.

43. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 31st January is glad at the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as a Judge of the Calcutta High Court in the place of Dr. Gurudas Banerji, retired, and thanks the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sir Francis Maclean, the Viceroy, and the Lieutenant-Governor for it.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAH.
Jan. 31st, 1904.

44. The same paper says that the proposal to impose a tax on Puri pilgrims has created great excitement in the country. The proposed tax would prevent many a poor pilgrim from visiting the holy shrine at Puri. The firmness and stability of British rule in India are based on the principle of non-interference observed by the rulers in religious matters. It is hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will not cast a slur on British rule by imposing such a tax.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAH.

45. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 1st February contains detailed accounts of two protest meetings held respectively at Barisal and Gaila in the Backergunge district.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
Feb. 1st, 1904.

46. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 2nd February says that, not to speak of acquiring new privileges on memorable occasions, the people of this country find it very difficult even to retain the rights and privileges which they have already acquired. The writer implores all the powers in earth and in heaven to influence Lord Curzon's mind so as to make him give up the idea of transferring East Bengal to Assam, just as Sir Charles Elliott altered his mind and withdrew the Jury notification.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

But no, not yet. Let His Lordship come to East Bengal and personally examine its people's hearts. This wish of His Excellency is laudable, and the people of East Bengal will welcome him to carry it out. Their hearts will distinctly tell him—"WE SHALL NOT GO TO ASSAM."

47. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 2nd February says that the Memari Sub-Registry office in the Burdwan district was located at Memari, when it included within its jurisdiction the villages

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

of the two thanas of Jamalpur and Satgachi. A separate Sub-Registry office being now established in Jamalpur, it is advisable that the Memari Sub-Registry office should now be removed to a more central situation in the Satgachi thana, as it now exists solely for the villages in that thana.

48. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 2nd February has the following in English:—

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

Mr. MacMinn and the mass-meeting of Tippera.

The other day we read with surprise an extraordinary statement made in the *Englishman* by

Mr. MacMinn to the effect that the mass-meeting held at Comilla was merely a sham one brought about by some pleaders seeking notoriety, that the senior pleaders were conspicuous by their absence, and that the Press telegrams were all bogus. Nothing can be a more gross perversion of facts. Some five thousand men, mostly composed of villagers, gathered in the Town Hall compound to protest against the proposed transfer of the Eastern Bengal districts to the backward province of Assam, and the seniors took prominent parts. When the general body was made to understand the real nature of this revolutionary proposal, they were thoroughly enthusiastic in their protest, and the meeting that began in the morning did not disperse till late in the afternoon. Batch by batch the people poured in from the neighbouring villages and there were representatives as well from the interior.

The resolutions that were embodied and carried unanimously were mostly moved, seconded or supported by the leading senior members of the Bar. Babus (1) Nabin Chandra Chakrabarty, (2) Ananga Mohan Naha (Government pleader), (3) Hari Nath Das, (4) Mathura Nath Dey, (5) Rajani Nath Nandi, (6) Upendra Mohan Mitter, (7) Kumud Behary Bandyopadhyaya, (8) Madan Mohan Ghosh, and (9) Digendra Nath Dutt—are these pleaders seeking notoriety? Are they not the seniormost pleaders of the Bar? Khan Bahadur of Paschimgaon, Syed Hossam Hyder Chaudhury, Kazi Munshee Raizuddin Mahomed—are they not the leading zamindars of the district? Were they not present? Was not one the President, the first two present throughout? Where then could Mr. McMinn find the spurious nature of the agitation? We learn that Mr. McMinn came here only four or five days ago and, as such, his knowledge of the

meeting must have been a second-hand one or one drawn from his own fervid imagination. A man in his position with love of truth should not have ventured to write in any responsible Anglo-Indian paper about a meeting which he has not witnessed personally. We emphatically deny the truth of his statement that found place in the *Englishman*.

If Mr. McMinn was not serious in his statement, but meant only to give a hint that he is not averse to the proposed transfer, why then such a scurrilous attack, if not for that and by the way to please Government, on a meeting which was not only thoroughly representative but also where complete unanimity in the protest prevailed. What did Mr. McMinn, as a patriot, think of Lord Curzon when he opposed the partition of Great Britain? Certainly as a saviour. Now may we ask Mr. McMinn, is it patriotism to throw cold water on a really genuine agitation, without knowing full well the feeling of the community with regard to the proposal? Mr. McMinn with his dire "famine" of information should not have committed himself to a statement which has not even "half-truths" in it, but which teems with "untruths" falling like Niagara from a snow-white head.

As regards the District Board of Chittagong, suffice it to say that it is a Government institution, being mainly composed of officials, rather than a representative one that can claim for it the right to represent the people. To seek to uphold the advisability of the transfer by relying on the divided opinions of the Chittagong District Board bespeaks a bad cause that has no other good reason for its support. Did Mr. McMinn see with his eyes open the minute of the ex-Chief Commissioner of Assam and the unanswerable reply of the Honourable High Court with regard to the proposed transfer?

Quite recently, therefore, has Mr. McMinn acquired an unenviable notoriety that will not be interred with his bones.

49. Referring to the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as a Judge of the High Court, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd February writes:—

The appointment fulfils the expectation of the Hindu community. We are glad that after officiating for a long time, Mr. Mitra has been made permanent in the post. We thank Government for the justice it has done to a deserving native gentleman.

50. The same paper writes:—

In reply to the address of the Muzaffarpur Muhammadan Association to the Lieutenant-Governor, in which attention was drawn to the want of representation of the Muhammadan community on the district head-quarters staff of the Provincial Service, His Honour promised to send a Muhammadan official there and said:—

"I wish to say clearly that I am strongly of opinion that in our public bodies and in our official service it is very desirable that the different sections of the community should have due representation. I have already pointed out that to make this possible, it is necessary that there should be an adequate number of the members of each section, both willing and capable to act as their representatives. It is impossible to give offices or places of influence to men who are not fit to occupy them."

These words of His Honour are very just and reasonable. If our rulers follow this principle in making appointments under Government, then efforts will surely be made by each community to train up men for such appointments, and the result is bound to be highly satisfactory.

51. The same paper writes that the native clerks in the office of the Comptroller of Post Offices are greatly upset by a recent circular proposing to transfer 131 clerks to Nagpur and Delhi. Those who will go there

willingly are promised increment of salary and payment of some allowance, while a threat of compulsion is held out to those who may refuse to go, and they are told that no favour will be shown to them. It will be very hard for most of these clerks to leave their homes and go to Nagpur or Delhi. Many of them will be compelled to leave service. Lord Curzon is known to be a friend of poor clerks, and it is to be hoped His Excellency will interfere in the matter

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
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SRI SRI VISHNU
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ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

and save the poor employés in the Comptroller's Office from their impending calamity.

52. The same paper writes :—

The agitation on the transfer of power in East Bengal is genuine, and is not an excitement of the moment due to wire-pulling by false agitators. If it is the duty of the ruling power to lend a sympathetic ear to the mournful outcries of the people, if to cause such unnecessary mental anguish to gentle, meek, and devoted subjects, be regarded as an act opposed to all principles of good administration, then Government should, by all means, withdraw itself from this cruel dismemberment affair.

We do not entertain the least hope of being able to prevent the Government by force of arguments or disputation from doing what it is determined to do. We can well understand how unavailing are the arguments of a beggar, who appears at the door of a Maharaja to ask for alms. The native public could not realise beforehand, nor do they realise now, what has come to be the relation between Government and the people. It is because they do not still understand this, that they engage in disputations with the mighty Government. Really, Government is making it too clear to us that the difference between the British and the Indian subjects is as great as that between heaven and earth. Such agitation as proves successful in England in removing the grievances of Englishmen, can never be allowed in India. Some of our rulers are extremely unwilling to see such agitation develop on Indian soil. Government therefore quite ignores all agitation in this country.

Lord Curzon proposes to visit East Bengal in the course of February. His Excellency will then have an opportunity of personally knowing everything, and gauging the popular feeling. But let no middleman step in between the Viceroy and the people to convince him that the agitation is all sham.

53. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd February takes the opportunity of the Lieutenant-Governor's ensuing visit to Kalna town to make the following prayers to His Honour :—

Wants and grievances of the Kalna people.

(1) A railway to Kalna and Katwa has ever been a great desideratum to the local people, and it is rumoured that the Lieutenant-Governor is coming to Kalna to decide among a number of proposed lines. In our opinion, the proposed Hooghly-Katwa line would be the best both for passenger and goods traffic. Triveni, Balagarh, Guptiparha, and many other large villages fall on this line. Besides, it would be the shortest route between Howrah and Kalna.

(2) The most furious and fatal type of malaria prevails in Kalna town. Among its causes may be mentioned the existence of a large number of foul tanks, and the want of a proper system of drainage in the town. An improvement of the drainage of the town would, it is hoped, greatly check the virulence of the disease. But the local Municipality is too poor to carry out this reform. His Honour is therefore requested to assign the income of the Kalna ferry ghat to this purpose.

(3) The insufficiency of the number of Civil Courts in Kalna town causes great loss, inconvenience, and hardship to parties and witnesses. The local Munsifi yields an annual income of Rs. 50,000 to the Government. It is therefore only just and reasonable that an additional Munsif should be appointed to the place.

(4) We seriously object to a separation of the Raniganj and Kalna subdivisions from the Burdwan district. Such a separation would greatly inconvenience every class of people in Raniganj. As for Kalna, its inhabitants have often to go to the Burdwan Rajbati on matters of business, and on such occasions they do whatever court business they may have at Burdwan. A separation of Kalna from the Burdwan district would consequently be a source of great loss and inconvenience to these people.

(5) The curriculum of study which has been fixed for the students of the lower classes of English schools is too difficult for tender boys. If it is not made easier, their health will be ruined.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

(6) There is a universal want of wholesome drinking water in the country. Formerly, zamindars used to provide for it, but now that they are indifferent in the matter, our only hope lies in the benevolence of the Government.

(7) We pray for three *pucca* bathing ghats in Kalna town. The income of the local ferry ghat may be utilised for this purpose.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 4th, 1904.

54. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 4th February writes as follows:—

From the reply which the Government of India has given to the letter of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and of which a copy has been sent to us, it appears that Government is not at all cowed down by the threatening attitude of the Chamber. It was believed that Government was under the thumb of the Chamber. But the reply setting forth the duty of Government in all cases of collision between Europeans and natives shows unmistakably its firmness and the unconquerable spirit of Lord Curzon.

SANJIVANI.

55. In an article headed "Terrible agitation over the proposed dismemberment of Bengal," the same paper writes:—

At a meeting held in the Mrityunjay School hall in Mymensingh, Maulvi Din Muhammad said:—"I take a solemn vow before God that as long as Government does not withdraw this most cruel proposal, I will not wear a white cap," and saying this he immediately took down his white *pagri* from his head and placed it on the table before the President of the meeting. The feeling rose to such a pitch that the whole audience stood up and embraced the Maulvi, and the Dewan of the Gauripur estate placed his own black cap on the Maulvi's head. Such a spectacle of unity and friendship between Hindus and Musalmans was never before witnessed in Bengal.

Is this agitation genuine or sham? In all the towns of East Bengal, and in all the important villages, protest meetings have been held. It is strange that some officials still say that the agitation is all false.

During his ensuing visit to East Bengal, Lord Curzon will have an opportunity of knowing personally whether the agitation is genuine or false. But we must give a warning to His Excellency.

We are informed that the Divisional Commissioner has ordered the Chittagong Association not to make any mention of the proposed partition of Bengal in their address to Lord Curzon. We are told that no one will be permitted to present any address without the sanction of Mr. Garth. If what we have heard is true, is not this an attempt to throw dust in Lord Curzon's eyes? The officials will not allow the people to express their sentiments freely, and will then say that if the people had been really against the transfer, they would surely have mentioned the fact in their address.

We do not know what mysterious enchantment has blinded the Nawab of Dacca. The Viceroy will be the Nawab's guest at Dacca. We hope His Excellency will not be satisfied with the Nawab's views. There are plenty of men in Dacca, who are far superior to the Nawab in wisdom, and the number of wealthy people, too, is not small. All these men should be allowed an opportunity of expressing their views.

Hundreds of thousands of people will express their sentiments to Lord Curzon at Chittagong, Dacca, and Mymensingh. Last year, when poor people were fed on the maidan on the occasion of the Coronation, a beggar said, "*ham bhukha hai*," which was explained to His Excellency to mean that the man was thanking him. We hope no such base flatterer will be with Lord Curzon on this occasion. No police officer or other officer should be permitted to put any obstacle in the way of the people in expressing their views to His Excellency.

SANJIVANI.

56. Babu Syama Charan Das Gupta complains in the same paper that rupees coined in 1840 with the effigy of William IV stamped on them are not accepted at railway

stations and on tram-cars. This is often a source of great inconvenience. But in making payments at the Banks these coins are freely given to the public. If Government has issued any order prohibiting the currency of these coins in public transactions, how is it then that the Banks make use of them? Government should notify that such coins should not be refused at railway stations, on tram-cars, and at other offices, and that they may be exchanged at the Currency Office for new coins.

57. The same paper, while admitting the desirability of the portraits of their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra being kept in the Town Hall of Calcutta, strongly deprecates the unseemly eagerness of Government officials to patronise a certain artist and put a large sum of money into his pocket. It looks very awkward, indeed, that Government officials should turn picture-dealers.

Portraits of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

Protest meetings.

58. The same paper contains telegraphic accounts of 20 protest meetings.

59. The following two letters appear in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 5th February over the names of Abdul Jubbar Khan and Zayebuddin Ahmad, respectively, of Mymensingh :—

Two anti-protest letters.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 5th, 1904.

(1) A monster meeting was held in Mymensingh town on the 17th January last. It was attended by not less than 8,000 people, among whom 7,700 were poor illiterate Musalmans. The local Hindu zamindars had compelled the latter, by threats of fine, to be present at the place of meeting. Of the remaining 300 people, all were, with the exception of 5 or 6 local zamindars and 15 or 20 talukdars, pleaders and mukhtears, who are fond of sensations. Among the pleaders were two Musalmans, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Anjaman. One day during the last Christmas vacation, I met the Secretary of the Anjaman and asked him his opinion on the dismemberment question. He said, "I shall settle the matter very soon by calling a meeting of the Anjaman." We were completely at our ease and hoped to give our opinion on the side which would be supported by others. In the meantime I got an advertisement in which appeared the name of the Secretary of the Anjaman. The matter appeared to be complicated and a grave suspicion arose in my mind. One day I had occasion to go to the Bar Library, and what I saw there rent my heart. I saw the old Maulvi Saheb sitting like a puppet and Jogendra Babu giving information about the monster meeting to respectable Musalmans coming from the mufassal. Some of the letters which had been sent to respectable people in villages bore Jogendra Babu's signature. Unable to bear the sight of Hindu supremacy in the Anjaman-i-Islamia, I left the place.

The two Maulavi Sahebs occupy the highest position in the Anjaman. They are the leaders of the Mymensingh Musalman community. A leader's life is full of responsibilities. The Maulavi Sahebs must be presumed to know well that it is extremely improper for a leader to act on whims. Is it ever possible for cowardly Bengalis to obstruct Government in its action? What harm was there in working calmly and gravely instead of being led away by the flatteries of Hindu pleaders, who revel in sensations? Is there any cause for fear, so far as we are concerned, in the Government of India's letter? If not, why so much objection? Does it become the Musalmans of Mymensingh, who are so backward in education and knowledge, to cross the path of Government and incur its serious displeasure? In my humble opinion we ought to be united with Assam. If we be united with Assam, our number will be double of that of the Hindus, and, in future, our progress will be certain if Chittagong is made the capital town. The Musalmans of Chittagong are more advanced in education than we are. It is surely not very difficult to see how greatly advantageous it is for Musalmans to have advanced Musalmans in the capital. The proposed change is the only means of promoting our interest. Through that change the Musalmans of Mymensingh could, to some extent, gain their object, but alas! their leaders have laid the axe at its root.

Alas, our destiny! Every moment we are suffering insult and indignity, oppression and persecution at the hands of the Hindus, but still we are not roused to our senses. Our Hindu brethren serve their purposes by decoying us with sweet words which are really poisonous in effect. This oppression by Hindus is depriving us of wealth, honour, spirit, and everything, and yet we do not understand them, and our leaders to whom we look up, with hopeful eyes, for our happiness, fail to undo the charm which they cast around them. We forget what we see before our eyes. Oh Providence! of what stuff have you made us?

(2) *A most wonderful riddle.*—On Sunday, the 17th January last, an unprecedented gathering took place in Mymensingh town. The noise of the crowd

filled the streets. The proceedings of the meeting, held on the race-ground, began at 2 P.M., and resolutions were passed protesting against the proposal to transfer Mymensingh to Assam. The authorities of the meeting succeeded in getting up a large gathering, for which purpose they had tried their best and used every art.

The reader is aware that 72 per cent. of the inhabitants of Mymensingh are Musalmans. The authorities therefore thought it their great duty to assemble the Musalmans, because without them unanimous resolutions could not be passed. There is an Association named Anjaman-i-Islamia in the town, composed of the representatives of the Musalmans of the whole district. Lest the Anjaman-i-Islamia should turn out to be a great obstacle to the monster meeting, the Hindu pleaders of the local Bar won their Musalman colleagues, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary to the Association, over to their side. This unnatural movement was not known to any of the members of the Association living in the town. Then, again, the Hindu zamindars of the district issued an order to their Musalman tenants to the effect that any of them who should fail to be present in the mass meeting of the 17th January would be fined. The half-educated Musalmans of the district were informed that the Secretary of the Anjaman-i-Islamia had invited them. In consequence of all this, there was a large muster of uneducated Musalmans in the meeting. Then, to turn to the proceedings.

How would the Musalmans know what arts and stratagems were used in connection with the meeting? And if they could know them, why should they remain so backward? Notice was issued that there would be a meeting of the Anjaman-i-Islamia. But lest the Anjaman should give its opinion in favour of the Government, no place was set apart for its meeting. There was a monster meeting of the Mymensingh Association which was on the occasion divided into five parts and at that meeting one or two "so called self-styled leaders of the Muhammadan community" delivered speeches. It was this fact which made the meeting to be called the united meeting of Hindus and Musalmans, and resolutions passed in it were said to have received the approval of both Hindus and Musalmans. But I can say that the Musalmans had no unanimous sympathy with the meeting. Those Musalmans who were present in the meeting were compelled to go there for fear of Hindu zamindars.

The Anjaman-i-Islamia should, in its next meeting, consider Government's proposal to transfer Mymensingh to Assam.

60. The same paper is glad at the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan

Mitra as a Judge of the High Court in succession to Babu Sarada Charan Mitra's Dr. Justice Guru Das Banerji. Some papers have succession to Dr. Banerji. been blaming Government for not having decorated

Guru Das Babu with a title. But titles can confer no honour on a man like Dr. Banerji. It is the titles which are honoured by being conferred on a man like him.

61. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th February rejoices to learn that Babu Sarada Charan Mitra has been appointed a Judge of the High Court in the place of Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji, retired. The public is thankful to Government for appointing such a worthy man to that high post.

62. The same paper observes:—

Dr. Gurudas Banerji. It is well known how ably Dr. Gurudas Banerji discharged his duties as a Judge of the High Court.

Regret has been expressed in some quarters that Government has not honoured him with a title. Considering that titles are nowadays being showered upon undeserving persons, we think Babu Gurudas occupies a much higher position without a title than he would do with one. Moreover, as he dissented from the report of the Universities Commission, it cannot be expected that he would be thought eligible for a title of distinction by Government.

63. The same paper publishes the following letter from a correspondent:—

The Collector of Rajshahi and the Subdivisional Officer of Naya-gaon. The Collector of Rajshahi purchased carriages and horses with the money belonging to the four annas ward's estate and has appropriated the same to his own use. He has also built a stable in his premises at the expense of the said estate. Not only this. Under his orders the gomastas of the estate compel mufassal raiyats to sow barley on their lands for

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him. Needless to say that the crop when gathered from the fields is sent to the Collector, and nothing is paid to the raiyats in the shape either of price or wages, and they suffer the further loss of the crops that might be grown on the lands.

At the time of the horse-races the Collector made the zamindars and other persons in the Rajshahi town pay subscriptions against their will. The collections were squandered in worthless amusements. Three senior pleaders are great favourites with the *huzur*. The people here have the notion that if one among these three is engaged in any case, it is bound to be successful. The Subdivisional Magistrate of Nayagaon came to Rajshahi to take part in the amusements and stayed there for a week. We hear that he brought Rs. 1,200 with him, which he had raised from subscriptions at Nayagaon. He is still collecting subscriptions and sending them to the Collector, who acknowledges receipt of the same. At the time of the horse-races the Subdivisional *huzur* beat a Brahman, who brought a criminal case against him. But a Deputy Magistrate dismissed the case on summary trial.

64. In continuation of its remarks [see Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 30th January, paragraph 46]

Mr. Yakchee, Superintendent,
Board of Revenue, Lower Pro-
vinces.

the same paper writes as follows:—

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Since the number of officers for the Board of Revenue was fixed in 1866 by Mr. T. Jones, there

has been no alteration in the number of clerks, but the amount of work has increased even more than hundred-fold. We have already shown that Mr. Yakchee has very little work to do, and the only purpose for which he is paid Rs. 700 per month appears to be to put down the poor overworked clerks.

The former Secretaries of the Board, Messrs. Slacke, Carlyle, and Finucane, were unanimous in their opinion that there was no necessity for retaining a Superintendent on Rs. 700 per month, and proposed that the work of the Superintendent should be divided between the Head Assistants of Sections Nos. 1 and 2. If such an arrangement were made, not only would the work be well managed, but the clerks would be saved the annoyance and tyranny which they have to suffer now, and the saving to Government would surely be not inconsiderable. Mr. Collin, the present Commissioner of the Presidency Division, fully endorsed the opinion of the above Secretaries, and added that if a Superintendent were indispensably necessary, a first grade Deputy Collector should be appointed as Superintendent. The following were Mr. Collin's own words:—

"He must be a gazetted officer, i.e., a first class experienced Deputy Collector, from whom we can expect actual help in many respects."

We shall mention below a few instances of Mr. Yakchee's ill-treatment of the clerks.

It is the copyists who are the worst victims of his tyranny. But a few among them are his special favourites, and they have nothing to fear. If any clerk makes any representation to the higher authorities, Mr. Yakchee at once sends for him, and either throws away his petition or keeps it with him without forwarding it. When, however, he forwards a petition, he makes such remarks upon it that the applicant gets no redress of his grievances and is sometimes scolded. If any clerk personally sees the Secretary, his fate is sealed. The man is obliged to submit his resignation or is dismissed through Mr. Yakchee's machinations. He is always in a temper and seldom has a good word for any one. The claims of Babu Kaliprasanna Chakrabarti, Senior Reference Clerk of Section No. 1, were once superseded and another officer was promoted. Babu Kaliprasanna made a representation to the higher authorities; but Mr. Yakchee did not forward his petition. Babu Kaliprasanna then personally saw Mr. Lyon and told him everything. Mr. Lyon called for the petition, which was most unwillingly forwarded by Mr. Yakchee after two or three reminders had been sent to him. Babu Benimadhab Ghosh, a copyist, applied for officiating allowance, but his application was not forwarded. Babu Umes Chandra Chaudhuri, one of Mr. Yakchee's favourite clerks, having insulted Babus Nabin Krishna Das, Sris Chandra Nandi, Abinas Chandra Chakrabarti, and Sib Chandra Banerji, copyists, they made a report against Umes Chandra. As might be expected, Mr. Yakchee kept the report with him.

The report of Mr. Simpson, an officer of the Land Revenue Department, who also was insulted by Umes Chandra, was similarly kept back. Thus encouraged, Umes Chandra was one day about to strike Mr. Simpson, who at once went to the Secretary, and complained against Umes Chandra. Mr. Yakchee no doubt tried his best to save Umes Chandra, but failed, and the man was punished with suspension.

When it was proposed to amalgamate the General Routine Department with the Second Section of the Land Acquisition Department, the clerks made a representation to the Secretary, Mr. Wheeler, pointing out the disadvantages of the proposal. But Mr. Yakchee, for reasons best known to himself, suppressed the representation.

We hope Government will lose no time in taking due notice of Mr. Yakchee's conduct. Such an officer cannot fail to bring disgrace upon Government.

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65. The same paper writes :—

The transfer question. The agitation in East Bengal is in full swing, and we hope it will go on increasing. But why is West Bengal so silent? Should not protest meetings be held in the towns of Western Bengal as well? To the monster meeting to be held in Calcutta, representatives from all the villages and towns should be sent. At this time of great misery and affliction to the people of Bengal, there ought to be perfect unity among them. Government appears to be determined upon the transfer of East Bengal to Assam. We should therefore be up and doing. Let us set up a huge agitation all over the country, and with one voice try to convince the rulers that this dismemberment can never be for the good of Bengal.

HITAVADI.

66. A correspondent complains in the same paper that postal signallers, though they serve in the Postal Department, are Grievances of postal signallers. not given promotion along with the other officers of that Department. The promotion of these signallers is very tardy and not at all attractive. Leave rules of postal signallers appear to be different from those of other postal officers. They are seldom allowed casual or privilege leave, and sometimes even sick leave is not granted. They have to do clerical work in the post office, yet they are not entitled to promotion in the Postal Department. This is unjust. With the increase of income of the telegraph office, the pay of the signaller does not increase. When lately promotions were given to officers of the General Traffic Department, the postal signallers were quite ignored, and their pay remained the same as before. Like officers of the General Traffic Department, they should be annually examined, and the deserving among them should be given increment of salary. The authorities will, it is to be hoped, removed the injustice that is now done to the postal signallers.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
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67. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 6th February contains a detailed account of a protest meeting of landholders held at Barisal on the 3rd instant.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 6th, 1904.

68. We have not been satisfied, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th February, with the Hon'ble Mr. Earle's reply to the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu's interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council in the matter of the creation of a special cadre for Europeans and Eurasians in the Bengal Secretariat clerical service, and desire to make the following queries :—

Who are the people by whom it has "always been accepted as necessary that a certain number of appointments in the Secretariat should be held by Europeans and Eurasians"? What are the qualifications for the possession of which such necessity arises? Are there no natives who possess those qualifications? Are those qualifications personal or racial? Why was the requisite number of Eurasians and Europeans not forthcoming under the system of examination? Is there no possibility of getting native clerks as able as European and Eurasian clerks, if the new system of recruitment as introduced for the latter is extended in the case of the former?

Appointment of European and Eurasian clerks in the Bengal Secretariat.

69. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the address which was presented to him by the Muzaffarpur Muhammadan Association regarding the want of representation of the Muhammadan community on the district head-quarters staff of the Provincial Service,

The Lieutenant-Governor on appointments in Government offices.

the same paper writes as follows:—

What Sir Andrew has said is true. But is it always the practice to take in service only well-educated men from the members of a community? Nowadays not a few Eurasians are getting appointments in Government offices. Are all of them well-educated? How many of them have received University education? Will Sir Andrew publish an account of their qualifications as compared with those of Hindu and Musalman officers, and thereby show that the authorities give appointments to educated people alone, irrespective of creed and colour? Many people actually believe that the authorities show a great partiality towards Eurasians in the matter of appointment.

70. Referring to the Government of India's replies to the memorials of the British Indian Association and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the administration of justice in India in cases of collision between Europeans and natives,

Government in cases of collision between Europeans and natives.

the same paper says:—

Government has flatly refused to act on the suggestions of the British Indian Association and take any steps for the alteration of the law dealing with trial by jury in this country.

We do not know whether the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has been satisfied with the reply which it has received; but the reply has satisfied us. The observation that "the natives of India shall enjoy no less protection under the law than Europeans," has reassured us. Government desires that the straining of feelings which has been generated between the Indians and the Europeans by "the discussion of these delicate matters in the public Press" should now disappear. This is all very good. But the letter, in which Government has sought to explain its action to the Chamber, clearly shows with whom the dissension originated and which side is to be blamed for fanning the embers into a fire. It is those who can shower reproaches on an innocent Government that should be warned first of all.

Government's letter to the Chamber has revealed a mystery. In one place the letter says, "In reporting on the case, Mr. Bolton, the acting Chief Commissioner of Assam, held that the offence demanded a severer sentence, and that the term of imprisonment might have been extended or might have been one with hard labour. He deprecated, however, any reopening of the matter, because it would bring the case again into prominence and excite public discussion, which he thought undesirable on political grounds." Mr. Bolton did not say what those political grounds were. But, of course, every intelligent man knows them. However that may be, the letter shows that justice has sometimes to be suppressed on political grounds.

71. Referring to the list of houses of historical note prepared by the Government of India, the same paper writes as follows:—

Commemoration of notable buildings.

Dilkusha and Moti Mahal have been placed under Fyzabad. But are they not in Lucknow? Are there only four houses of historical importance in Rajputana? Surely the list is incomplete; because the name of many a noteworthy house in Bengal has not found a place in it. Is not Jagat Sett's residence a noteworthy house? However that may be, hearty thanks are due to Lord Curzon for this noble work.

72. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 7th February writes:—

The address to be presented to the Viceroy by the Dacca District Board and Municipality.

Dacca, consisting of five official members, including the District Magistrate and three non-official members, to consider and adopt the addresses to be presented to the Viceroy by the Municipality and the District Board. The draft address prepared by the District Magistrate, who was the Chairman both of the District Board and the Municipality of Dacca, contained the prayer that if

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the transfer of East Bengal to Assam was considered unavoidable by Government, then a separate province, consisting of some additional districts, with a Legislative Council, should be formed, and Dacca should be made the capital. As might be expected, the three non-official members strongly objected to the proposal, which was carried by the official majority. The Chairman recorded the dissent of the official members. That the official and Government-nominated members should obey Government's wishes was but natural. But is not the opinion of the non-official members, who represent public opinion, far more important than that of official and nominated members? The influential men of Dacca have protested strongly against the proposal that was carried in the Committee. That in spite of such strong disapproval of the public, such an address should be considered as an address from the public, is indeed most unseemly. We draw the attention of the mufassal members of the District Board to the present situation. If they have in them the least spark of patriotism, if they would not kill their own mother, they must not give their consent to the dismemberment of Bengal. For, if the mother dies, the offspring dies with her.

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A Muhammadan protest meet-
ing at Dacca.

73. The same paper writes that a grand protest meeting consisting of influential Muhammadans was held in the Jagannath College hall on the 7th instant. The chair was occupied by the highly respected, time-honoured Saiyad Golam Mustapha Ali Hossein. Great enthusiasm prevailed, and feeling ran so high that several members wept. The speech of Mr. Hedayet Bux was most effective. It was resolved that any proposal for the partition of Bengal, under any condition whatever, would not be acceptable to the Muhammadan community.

DACCA PRAKAS.

RANGALAY,
Feb. 7th, 1904.

74. The same paper contains the proceedings of protest meetings held at 28 different places in the Mymensingh district, of a meeting held at Gopaldi in the Dacca district, of a meeting of the inhabitants of the Dacca district held in the Comilla town, of one held at Habigunge in the Faridpur district, and of one held at Kirtipasa in the Backergunge district.

75. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 7th February writes as follows :—

Government's policy as regards the black and the white. The dominant race in India is a race of white men, while the subject race is a race of blacks. But white and black, the conquerors and the conquered, are subjects alike of the English Government. The conquerors number only 300 thousand, while the conquered number no less than 300 million. The 300 millions of the conquered are like so many ants, while the 300 thousands of the conquerors are like so many lions. But 300 millions of ants even require to be managed with some care.

Lord Curzon's Government has provided for justice being done in law-Courts in cases in which any of the conquered blacks are maltreated by any of the conquering white men. Under these provisions, a few Europeans like Baine, Emerson, Martin, etc., have been subjected to some amount of trouble. The race of white men are unwilling to put up even with this amount of trouble—even with this show of control that is meant only to dupe fools. They therefore memorialised Government in a body, to which Government has replied justifying its own action.

Now, we have a few words to say in this connection. A combination of the white men and the blacks will certainly bode no good to Government. It is therefore necessary for Government to keep the two races apart and, with that end, to wound the sense of dignity and importance of the dominant race. The white men, though subjects, belong to the dominant race. They can, by their combined efforts, control Parliamentary elections and decide the fate of ministries. They have won this vast empire with their blood. They have therefore pride, a sense of dignity as well as a sense of national self-respect. If ever, therefore, they mix with the blacks they will mix with a feeling of condescension and as their masters. Indeed, the difference between the white and the black is as great as that between the Brahmin and the Sudra. A proposal to place the two races, therefore, on a footing of equality as regards criminal trials—to create an agitation like the Ilbert Bill agitation—was to take steps that were sure to prevent such a combination. Thanks to the Ilbert Bill,

we have lost the support of the white. As a result of the many contemporary agitations we bid fair to lose the very shadow of their sympathy or co-operation. Is it with this object, we ask, that Government is prescribing such *nostrums* from time to time ?

Government used formerly to grant many of our prayers. But it does so no longer. The reason is that Government did not know the people so well before as it does now, and that there was before a close union of the white and the black. In recent times, the black and the white were at one on the question of the abolition of jury trial and Government had at once to give in. But Government has now come to know us well, so that it is now possible for it to make us dance like puppets to any tune. Why should it then grant our prayers any longer? However that may be, the creation of ill-feeling between the white and the black by such tricks is an act not worthy of the Government.

Since Government is playing tricks, we too should do the same. Let us resolve in a body not to resent any maltreatment we may receive at the hands of white men and to serve unofficial white men in a devoted spirit. That would perhaps nonplus Government. But there is one obstacle in the way. The anti-English feeling has become very dominant in the subject race, and this feeling will not be easy to eradicate. We have come to know much of the inner life of Englishmen as they have come to know much of ours. As that intimate knowledge has produced hatred of us in the hearts of Englishmen, so it has produced an ill-feeling against Englishmen in our hearts. Both these feelings are deep-rooted and not to be eradicated. Their eradication, besides, is opposed to the policy of Government. It is a case of the earthern and the brazen pitcher floating in the same stream. A collision between the two, with the sure result of the smashing of the weaker vessel, is inevitable. Under these circumstances, it would not be wise either to applaud or to condemn. It would be as unwise to praise Government when it brings to justice a white man who kills a black, as it would be to blame it when the white murderer of a black man escapes scot-free and snaps his fingers at everybody, for both are direct results of one and the same crooked policy.

For these and other reasons, we are unable to praise Lord Curzon's Government, for if we praise Government, in this matter, we are sure to offend the white. So critical have now become the relations between the black and the white !

A difference between the black and the white is nothing unnatural in a country where a difference is maintained between the Brahmin and the Sudra. The Code of Criminal Procedure, indeed, recognises a distinct creature under the name of "the European British subject." But what we want is that this difference should be openly recognised in every matter, in every place, and at all times. The European community has complained of Government's hard treatment of certain European offenders. Indeed! We are no longer to be deluded by take-ins. We want Government to proclaim that we are a subject people and, as such, have no rights, and that the dominant race is free to do anything with impunity. The Viceroy has, of course, replied to this complaint of the European community with an ingenuity which is worthy of him, and for which we are thankful to him. But we pray him with joined hands and in all seriousness not to deceive us any longer with sweet, loving words, as by this we lose the sympathy of the European community without being able to reckon upon the genuine sympathy of Government.

76. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 8th February suggests the

How the Viceroy should be received in Dacca. following arrangements as well to do honour to the Viceroy as to make a popular demonstration against the proposed transfer:—

- (1) Both sides of the entire railway line between Narayanganj and Dacca should be planted with gay flags of diverse colours indicative of welcome, and all the railway stations, and Dacca and Narayanganj in particular, should be crowded with men and, if possible, both sides of the railway line should be lined with men along its entire length.

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(2) Courts, offices, schools, colleges, and shops in Dacea should be closed for a short time at the moment of the Viceroy's arrival, and a long procession of people should be moving from the station to the Nawab's residence, the streets being lined on both sides with neatly dressed youths of all classes bearing in their hands flags indicative of income.

(3) The next day, when the Viceroy shall be out visiting the town, a similar demonstration should be made in the streets by men carrying flags with mottoes indicative of the popular unrest. A similar spectacle of a sea of human heads should be presented on the riverside also.

(4) In the afternoon, there should be *Harisankiratan* (chanting of the praise of God) with great *éclat*, and prayers should be offered in the churches, temples, the musjids, and the Brahmo places of worship. At night, the worship of the goddess Kali on the other side of the river should be celebrated with the accompaniment of suitable festivities. There will be a display of fire-works for the Nawab Bahadur has arranged for it. The town should be illuminated at night and the poor should be fed, as far as possible.

(5) The Dacca artists should prepare 10 to 12 large artistic frames with significant images, and placards with words indicative of the pain in the public mind, written in large letters in English as well as in Bengali, should be posted in all the prominent places in the town.

Our prayer to Lord Curzon is that to show respect for justice as well as to remove the alarm and uneasiness in the public mind, he will consider the question deeply. A hasty and haphazard decision will be good neither for Government nor for the people. The English sceptre has not yet been tainted with injustice, oppression or lawlessness. This constitutes our only hope. The subject prays for the welfare of the Sovereign who protects him. We therefore make bold to say this to-day with our cheeks bedewed with tears.

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77. The same paper has the following in its English columns:—

Lord Curzon's ensuing visit to East Bengal. The proposed visit of the Viceroy has naturally raised discussions among our public men as to the way in which the people are to receive His Excellency and the so-called public bodies, the District Board and the Municipality, are to present their addresses. The officials appear to have triumphed all along the line, as they have generally done of late years. The evils of municipal bodies being presided over by official Chairmen have never been brought more prominently to light than on the present occasion. We are certain that if the popular element in the local Corporation and the District Board were left free to do as they liked, their address or addresses to the Viceroy would have contained emphatic expressions of the dread and loathing with which the present partition proposal of the Government are regarded by the people in general. As it is, if rumour is to be credited, the joint address of these bodies is likely to express only a weak and half-hearted disapproval of the Government measure and is, moreover, likely to do an irreparable injury to the public cause by attempting to meet the Government half-way by the formulation of alternative proposals, striking at the very root of the principles upon which we have taken our standpoint in this controversy. It is being openly said that these obnoxious and compromising proposals have been hatched by some official or officials here or elsewhere, who have found it an easy task to secure their acceptance by the complaisant official and nominated members who, we are sorry to say, form the majority in the Sub-Committee formed for this purpose. The address will, no doubt, be seized upon by the Government party as an effective protest against the uncompromising attitude of the people themselves which will, in the light of it, be interpreted as the work of wire-pullers and interested agitators! The utter hollowness of the matter will not be concealed from the popular eye; but it will be a terrible weapon in the hands of the official party, which will willingly shut its eyes to its artificial nature and will hold it up to the people themselves as the expression of the sentiments of the "leading and loyal" section of the community. It may also be taken up by our *huzurs* as a text upon which to read a severe homily to

the "artificial agitators" and their followers upon the virtues of reposing implicit faith in the Government and interpreting its actions and utterances exactly in the way that suits them; however much reason and logic may dictate the opposite course. But it is useless to speculate as to what use this particular official or that may make of the document. Suffice it to say that the popular cause has suffered a serious reverse.

We are glad, however, to see that the real representatives of the people have been true to their cause and have not betrayed the trust reposed in them. They have fought tooth and nail, we are informed, for the preservation of our rights, privileges, associations, and everything we cherish most. It is now doubtful whether it will be consistent with their dignity to remain any longer connected with associations so many members of which have rejected their just objections. We think we are echoing the sentiments of the people when we say that, notwithstanding their note of dissent, if they do not at once sever their connection with these bodies, their action will not be correctly interpreted either by the people or by the rulers, as their opposition to the official view may be regarded as faint and half-hearted. They ought not to leave any room for the formation of such an impression by any one. But it is a matter in which they themselves are the best judges, and we do not doubt that they will adopt the course which is best dictated by reason and common sense.

Should the majority of elected members resign their seats, the question will certainly assume a new and more serious aspect. It needs no prophetic vision to foresee that Lord Curzon will be the last person to agree to accept an address of welcome from a public body, the members of which are divided amongst themselves. Should the local officials court such a *contretemps*? Certainly not. Let us hope, it is not yet too late to pour oil over troubled waters. If any mandate from the high has to be counted in this connection, we have nothing to say.

POPULAR DEMONSTRATION.

A tiny bird whispers into our ear that it has been suggested in certain quarters that the local authorities must not allow any sort of anti-partition demonstration in connection with the Viceregal visit. The reason for the adoption of this alleged singular course is stated to be an apprehension that it may lead to a breach of that peace of which they are the custodians and preservers. Preservation of peace too often forms the pretext on which Government officials repress genuine expressions of popular feeling; but it was never expected by any one that the law-abiding population of Dacca should be credited by any official, having any knowledge of the character of its people, with that predilection for fight and disturbance which characterize the mob of Europe. Suppose, instead of demonstrating their disapproval of the measure, the people had asked to be allowed to demonstrate their *approval* of it by large gatherings, carrying flags, and such other outward signs, would there be the least objection on the part of our rulers? Would not, on the contrary, every facility be afforded for such a demonstration, even to the overcrowding and blocking of the thoroughfares? Does not the very idea of an *open* demonstration carry with it also the idea of a sincere desire to be loyal and peaceful and, what is more important, an implicit faith in the justice, goodness, and sympathy of the rulers? The authorities do not surely intend that the flocking of people from the interior in order to welcome the Viceroy will be checked or hindered in any way, however large their number may be. If, while lining the thoroughfares, they carry in their hands flags containing simple but eloquent expressions of their feelings, will that fact in any way produce any disturbing effect upon their usually calm and placid temperament? We think not. The real reason is not far to seek. Such a demonstration will, it is feared, produce a convincing effect as to the genuineness of the agitation upon the mind of the Viceroy who comes here, as it befits him, with an open mind on the subject. It will thus effectually destroy the pet theory of our *huzurs* that the agitation is confined to the educated minority only and does not extend to the masses. It is principally for this reason, and not in the interests of peace, that popular demonstration is being sought to be suppressed. We feel confident, Mr. Rankin will never allow himself to be hoodwinked in this way.

A Government which is strong in the rectitude of its policy should never seek to suppress the popular voice and attempt to find sham supporters where

genuine ones are utterly wanting. It is only weak and despotic rulers, conscious of the weakness of their measures, who are afraid of popular agitation and who attempt to find in the obstinacy of their adherence to a wrong course a substitute for that strength which can only reside in the innate excellence of a right one. What more need we say?

DACCA GAZETTE.
Feb. 8th, 1904.

BANKURA DARPAH.
Feb. 8th, 1904

78. The same paper contains telegraphic accounts of 45 protest meetings
Protest meetings. held in East Bengal.

79. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th February writes that
Interesting historical relics in Lord Curzon has done a very praiseworthy act
the Bankura district. by commemorating houses in which distinguished
persons lived or which are of historical interest.

In the Bankura district there are many interesting relics of the Hindu Rajas of Bistupur, and in the Bistupur town there are memorable ruins, which deserve to be preserved. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate will draw the attention of Government to these ancient relics.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BANKURA DARPAH.
Feb. 1st, 1904.

80. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st February writes that
The Universities Bill. for the purpose of discussing the Indian Universities Bill, Lord Curzon has brought together educational experts from all parts of India, and the well-known Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay has been elected as a Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. But still the prospects do not appear to be hopeful. It is desirable that the Bill that is going to be passed into law, should, instead of narrowing the limits of education in the country, sufficiently widen them so as to make it easy for poor students to prosecute their studies. Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji, who will shortly retire from the High Court Judgeship, enjoys the full confidence of all classes of the people. He has all along associated himself with the work of the Calcutta University and was twice its Vice-Chancellor. It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will appoint such a worthy gentleman as a Member of his Council for discussing the Universities Bill. Such an appointment will certainly increase the people's confidence in and respect for the Government.

BANGAVASI.
Feb. 6th, 1904.

81. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th February writes as follows:—
The Bengal Settled Estates We congratulate Sir Andrew Fraser on his
Bill. plain speaking in reply to the address presented to him by the Tirhoot Branch of the Central Muhammadan Association on the occasion of his recent visit to Muzaffarpur town. The Association thanked the late Sir John Woodburn for the Bengal Settled Estates Bill, which is calculated to remove many of the shortcomings of the Muhammadan law of inheritance, and begged Sir Andrew Fraser to amend certain provisions of the Bill. The request was reasonable and His Honour's reply open and sincere. Sir Andrew said, "It is distinctly undesirable unduly to encourage such settlements. The stamp duties have been fixed in view of all the circumstances of the case; and I am bound to say frankly that I do not consider that there is the least hope of having them reduced, until experience may have proved the expediency of such a reduction." We admire His Honour's frankness, but are astonished to find that his words are unsupported by any reason. Why not allow every one to apply for the privilege and leave to Government the right to grant or refuse it? In that case the proposed law would have been made simpler though not just. Again, there ought to be a full and clear statement of the qualifications which will entitle a person to the privilege. Government may, if it desires, say that the privilege will be extended only to such men as have arms extending to the knees, have a gait like that of the elephant, are restrained in speech, and have white teeth and fair complexion, and to such women as possess the stately elephantine gait, a sweet tongue, sweet smiles and fair hair, and are well dressed. No one would have anything to say against such a rule, because people would think it was all the master's pleasure, and Government would be spared the trouble of listening to prayers and petitions. If Government is determined to scare away intending applicants by requiring heavy court-fees, it should clearly state to how many per hundred of such applicants it would allow the privilege. If to half the number, let the amount be half the annual

income; and if to one-fourth or one-eighth, let the amount be three-fourths of the annual income.

Considering the condition to which the ancient zamindar families in Bengal have been reduced, it is desirable that their estates should be impartible. We therefore welcomed and received the Bill with great joy. But then the provision as to the exorbitant court-fees dispirited us. Still we did not despair, and hoped that the rigour of the provision would be mitigated. But alas! the Lieutenant-Governor's words have deprived us of that hope.

82. The same paper writes as follows:—

Sir Denzil Ibbetson's reply to the interpellation regarding the proposed transfer.

The right of interpellation in the Legislative Council is considered by many to be a unique privilege, the very thought of losing which makes them shudder. If the privilege can bring about a regeneration of India, let it do so. But we often do not know whether to laugh or weep over it. An interpellation recently made in the Supreme Legislative Council by Dr. Ashutosh Mukharji and its reply by the Government have had such an effect on us. Dr. Mukharji asked, "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the financial effect of the proposed scheme of transfer of the Chittagong Division and of the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh to the Assam Administration has been considered?" The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson replied, "Any consideration of financial effects . . . would be premature at the present stage. When a final decision has been arrived at, any adjustment that may be found necessary will be made in connection with the provincial settlements." What a reply! What an argument! The incident reminds us of a story. Two friends, Europeans of course, used to practise shooting. One day they went to a field with loaded guns. One of them saw something moving at a distance. He raised his musket and said to his friend, "Look at that thing moving there. I shall shoot at it from here. You will see what a good shot I am." The friend said, "I think that is a man." The former said, "Why should it be a man? It is an animal. However that may be, let me shoot and show you my unerring aim. Afterwards we shall see whether it is a man or an animal." Is not this story of a piece with Sir Denzil's reply?

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 6th, 1904.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

83. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 5th February contains a series of

The Minister of the Tippera Raj.

charges against Rai Uma Kanta Das, Bahadur, the Minister of the Tippera Raj, the burden of which is that by abolishing the State Council the Rai Bahadur is carrying on the administration of the State in darkness and giving free scope to his personal interests to the detriment of those of the Raj.

MAHIMA,
Feb. 5th, 1904.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

84. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th January writes that

Distress in the Burdwan district.

famine is inevitable in the villages in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district and in the following thirteen adjacent villages:—Jhamatpur, Baharan, Birumpur, Nutagram, Punasi, Naliapur, Kenguri, Uddhanpur, Naibati, Sankai, Benepara, Kharali, and Shibloon. Cries of distress are heard even now. The inhabitants of the above villages are reported to be in a desperate condition, and are deserting their homes and going to other places to earn their livelihood. It is widely believed that the Subdivisional Officer of Katwa, Babu Syamlal Gupta, was severely scolded by Mr. Lyor, the late Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, for having sent a report of the prevailing distress to the authorities and asking for Government help. Thus treated, Syamlal Babu now refuses to listen to the cries of the people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Jan. 26th, 1904.

The Lieutenant-Governor is expected shortly to pay a visit to Kalna. It is to be hoped that His Honour and Mr. T. Inglis, the present Divisional Commissioner, will be pleased to see the true state of things with their own eyes and grant relief to the distressed people.

PALLIVASI,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

85. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 27th January writes that famine has made its appearance in some places in the Katwa Distress in the Burdwan district. and Ketugram thanas. The District Magistrate has ordered the opening of relief works. The rate sanctioned for earthwork is too low to attract the poor. It is only ten pice per hundred cubic feet of earth-work, and even this small sum suffers reduction in many ways before it reaches the labourers. The District Magistrate will, it is to be hoped, make a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Feb. 1st, 1904.

86. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st February writes that the Bankura district is notorious for water scarcity. Impending water scarcity in the Bankura district. The rivers are full of sand and the tanks are waterless. This year water scarcity will probably be very severe, and the authorities should lose no time in making arrangements for sinking wells and preventing the existing reservoirs from being dried up.

NIHAR,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

87. A correspondent from the Balighai village writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd February that the paddy crop has failed Distress in the Midnapore district. to such an extent in Daundpur, Uddhabpur and other villages in the Midnapore district, that in seven bighas of land belonging to him there was an outturn of only 8 maunds. Many people are already in great want. It is impossible for the poor cultivators to pay their rent this year. The unusually large sale of plantain leaves at the Balighai *hat* this year unmistakably shows that the people have already sold their brass utensils, and that the plantain leaves are made to do duty for the plates with which they have parted.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

88. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 2nd February draws attention to the distress prevailing in many villages Distress in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district owing to scarcity, and says it has heard Mr. Chotzner's transfer from Burdwan to be due to the fact that he agreed in the Subdivisional Officer's report about the existence of distress. The writer has also been astonished to find that rice has been quoted as selling cheap in the Katwa subdivision in the crop report published in the last week's *Calcutta Gazette*. The writer implores the Lieutenant-Governor to make a tour of inspection through the affected villages and take early relief measures.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BABUMATI.
Jan. 30th, 1904.

89. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes that the case in which the well-known Mr. Beatson-Bell gave Mr. Beatson-Bell and a steamer clerk. a slap to one Kesab, a steamer clerk, affords a beautiful illustration of the typical Bengali character. The clerk, forgetful of the fact that he was merely a clerk, threatened to bring a case against Mr. Beatson-Bell. But when he was given to understand by his employer that in that case he might lose his appointment, Kesab was at once brought to his senses. Why are there such ridiculous exhibitions of foolishness in the country in which there are millions of such Kesabs, who would swallow much worse things than mere kicks and blows of Europeans for fear of losing their service? The wretch born to carry shoes on his back, cannot possibly sustain the heavy burden of self respect. When the true sense of self-respect will come among them, the Indians will no longer have to suffer shoe-beating, nor will they feel the necessity of running to the law Courts to save their honour.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

90. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 2nd February writes as follows:—

The mother-country. If agitations like the one which has been raised in Bengal by the dismemberment question arise in every part of India in all matters, where will lie the miseries of the country? The present movement shows us how determinate, energetic, and consummate the actions of men become when the words "my country" arise in their minds.

We desire that even such should be the case. We want to be thoroughly roused in matters concerning our country. Shall we never be qualified to say, "Our country"? It is true that men of different castes and men of different religious persuasions live here, but our mother-country is one—the fertile and

well-watered India. If we can cement our connection with the mother-country, make her our own, and establish motherly relations with her, then we shall be qualified to say, "Our country."

91. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 2nd February says that

How to improve India's material condition.

there is no hope for India so long as its people go on merely talking and blaming Government for not ameliorating their condition and do not put forth the least effort to improve their own material condition by thoroughly imbibing Western scientific education. The writer advises the Indian National Congress to open a national fund, and with the money collected in the fund to help Indian youths in acquiring scientific education in Europe, to purchase merchant ships for conveying Indian manufactures to foreign markets, and to open mills and factories in the country. That is now the only means of improving India's condition.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

92. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 3rd February publishes a poem welcoming the Lieutenant-Governor to Kalna town and asking the local people to bring their wants and grievances to His Honour's notice.

A poem.

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

93. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd February writes:—

Indian poverty responsible for Indian unhealthiness.

Government spends vast sums of money to stop the ravages of plague, cholera, and small-pox. We have highly-paid officers to superintend sanitary measures. All this money comes from the impoverished people of India. But no one knows what return in the shape of improved sanitation the country derives from the entertainment of these officers. Their only work seems to be to write reports. The Sanitary Commissioner issues a report every year, and there ends all his responsibility. No measures are taken to save the people from the attacks of plague, malaria, and small-pox, nor are there any suggestions for the prevention of these terrible maladies to be found in the reports. On the other hand, all the blame is shifted on to the people, who are charged with habitual uncleanness and a morbid fondness for dirt and filth. This indeed is a very convenient way of vindicating one's own conduct and character. Health officers have very little personal knowledge of the people's condition, their only work being like Chitra Gupta, the Accountant-General of death, to compile death statistics from mortuary returns and prepare reports. If they had been mindful of their duty, if India had been their mother-country, if they had regarded the Indians as their friends and relations, then the reports would have been written in a different manner. They would then have traced the unhealthiness of India to its true cause, namely, the extreme poverty of the masses.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 3rd, 1904.

Dr. Henry Canewood, the head of the London Health Department, says in his Annual Report, that poverty is the chief cause of unhealthiness, and the measures that are calculated to mitigate the intensity of poverty are identical with those that will remove the unhealthiness of the country. What is true in England in a general sense must be true in India in a special sense. The substance of Dr. Henry Canewood's views is contained in the following words: "Insanitation and poverty go hand-in-hand." The poverty problem in India is the question that should occupy the minds of all thoughtful men.

94. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th February writes that the

The etiology of leprosy in India.

conclusion at which the celebrated Dr. Hutchinson has arrived regarding the etiology of leprosy, appears to be inapplicable to India. The doctor has tried to prove that leprosy is caused by eating putrid or imperfectly cured fish. The number of lepers in the Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan, and Sonthal Parganas districts, is larger than in other parts of India. But the people of these districts eat far less quantities of fish than do the people of the Jessore, Khulna, Backergunge, and 24-Parganas, districts. The lower classes in the Khulna and some other districts are much given to eating putrid and imperfectly cured fish. But leprosy is not so prevalent in these latter districts as in the former. From these facts it appears that in India leprosy is due to other causes than the one discovered by Dr. Hutchinson.

BANKURA DARPAR,
Feb. 8th, 1904.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 20th, 1904.

SAMAD VAHika,
Jan. 28th, 1904.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Jan. 2 th 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Jan. 30th 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

95. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th January states that small-pox is raging virulently in Balasore town, and that Mr. Egerton, the Chairman of the local Municipality, is trying his best to stamp out the disease.

96. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 28th January regrets to notice a case of cholera in the boarding-house attached to the Balasore Zilla School, which ended fatally, and hopes that it will prove an isolated case, not transmitting the germs to other boarders.

97. All the native papers of Orissa approve of the sanction of a pension of Rs. 50 a month by the Government of India to Mahamahopadhyaya Chandrasekhar Samanta of Khandpara in Orissa, and thank Mr. Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, through whose exertions the sanction was obtained. The writers are of opinion that this gracious act on the part of Government will encourage Sanskrit learning not only in Orissa but in other parts of India, for the Mahamahopadhyaya who has been thus patronised, is the living propounder of a school of Astronomy which has for its followers many learned men in different parts of India.

98. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th January sympathises with Mr. Tilak of Bombay in his distress, and observes that his blunt patriotism has been the cause of all his troubles.

99. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 30th January states that the weather has been clear and cold.

100. The same paper states that the health of the Cuttack town is good.

101. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that the price of rice in that subdivision of the Cuttack district is falling, and that this is due to a good harvest reaped by the local agriculturists.

102. Referring to the agitation set on foot in Bengal in connection with the transfer of some districts from one Province to another, the same paper states that so far as Orissa is concerned, the Resolution of the Government of

India on the subject has given great satisfaction to the natives of this Province, who have already thanked the Government for its intention to bring together all the Uriya-speaking districts under the advanced and enlightened rule of the Government of Bengal. The gentry and the nobility of Orissa have already acquiesced in the proposed arrangement, while the Uriya papers, including the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of Bamra and the *Prajabandhu* of Ganjam have gladly accepted the proposal of Government. It is said that the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of Balasore holds different views, but that the editor has not, as yet, clearly expressed them. This being the general public opinion of Orissa, the writer is grieved to find that already evil influences are at work in that Province, and attempts are being made by some unknown persons to embarrass the position of the Government, already hard pressed by the clamours of Eastern Bengal, by the circulation of anonymous leaflets, suggesting the transfer of the Uriya-speaking districts to the Central Provinces. The evildoers have not the courage of their conviction, for they dare not publicly discuss the subject. They go about procuring signatures to their petition by incorrect representations, and they have succeeded, in certain cases, in inducing some men to change their views. The burden of their plaint lies in the fallacious doctrine that the Uriyas will secure a large number of Government employments if they come under the Central Provinces Administration—a doctrine which, as the writer points out, cannot hold water even for a single moment. The writer suspects that some of the young District Officers in Orissa may have been influenced by some such childish views, and therefore advises the Commissioner of the Orissa Division to study the subject carefully, to collect

the views of all classes of the native community, and to supplement the imperfections of district reports by the aid of his mature judgment. The writer hopes that the general public will beware of the secret working of the evil-doers, who are no friends of the Uriyas.

ASSAM PAPERS.

103. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 31st January writes as follows:—

Cooly impression in Cachar. The thanks and blessings of all the inhabitants of Cachar are due to Mr. Fuller, our kind-hearted Chief Commissioner, for doing what we, by our writings extending over 14 years, had failed to get done. What better news can there be for the Cachar people? Brethren of Cachar! You will no longer have to supply coolies. *Mirasdars* will no longer have to suffer ruinous losses and undergo severe hardship. The kind-hearted Chief Commissioner has said that henceforth only in times of war the Deputy Commissioner will be competent to impress coolies with his permission. By God's grace there is no prospect of a war at present in India.

SILCHAR,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 13th February, 1904.

